

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAIROBI UN DUTY STATION RECEIVES CLASSIFICATION UPGRADE BASED ON IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

NAIROBI – Made effective January 1, 2010, the United Nation's Nairobi hub, has been upgraded from C status to B status by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) elevating the duty station's ranking from average to good. The upgrade was based on an assessment of overall quality of life including safety and security, health care, education and housing among others for UN employees and their families. The UN's Nairobi duty station is home to UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

"The Government of Kenya welcomes the recent decision of the United Nations and the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) to elevate Nairobi's duty station status to a Level B. This is a reflection of the significant developments being made under the Vision 2030 plan and the government remains fully committed to continuing to improve the living conditions of everyone who lives and works in Kenya," said Kenya Ambassador H.E. Zachary Muburi-Muita, permanent representative of Kenya to the United Nations.

The ICSC is an independent expert body established by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 1974, mandated to regulate and coordinate the conditions of service of staff in the United Nations common system, while promoting and maintaining high standards in the international civil service. The classifications range from "A" to "E" with "A" being the lowest level of hardship.

For more information or to interview Ambassador Muita, please contact Lisa Mendelson at lmendelson@clsdc.com or 202-777-3561.

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Kenya leads in global fight against piracy

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With Somalia in its backyard, no country has more at stake in the fight against piracy than Kenya. As the only administration presently prosecuting Somali pirates, the Kenyan government has earned a reputation as an anchor in the region by going to great lengths to combat and punish pirates.

In addition to cutting off financial resources, the Merchant Shipping Act of 2009 greatly increased the penalty for captured pirates. Whereas the sentence was once just 10 years, those convicted of armed robbery on ships in Kenyan waters now serve life sentences upon conviction.

Last month, the government passed the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, which calls for a Financial Reporting Center to be established in Nairobi. The Center will work to identify the proceeds of the crimes and combat money laundering. It will work with law enforcement and intelligence organizations both within Kenya and internationally to cut off the source of income of pirates.

The Act also requires banks to closely monitor any unusually large or suspicious financial transactions and report to the Financial Reporting Center immediately. The newly formed Assets Recovery Agency is tasked with recovering any proceeds of piracy quickly and efficiently.

The Kenyan Navy has also provided all ships traveling in Kenyan waters with a thorough list of precautions and strategies to avoid attacks.

Piracy has surged to the forefront as a high impact global menace. According to the ICC International Maritime Bureau, there were 306 pirate attacks in 2009 alone. 114 of those ships were boarded while 34 were successfully hijacked. These accounted for 661 total hostages.

The Kenyan government has taken a proactive role in the international fight against piracy. This hard-line approach is expected to reduce attacks through preventative measures and enhanced punishments.

For more on Kenya's anti-piracy strategies, [click here](#).

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